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10/003,581	11/14/2001	Shi-Hui Tsai	1007-021	4741

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EXAMINER
ALI, MOHAMMAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2167	

DATE MAILED: 11/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/003,581	TSAI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mohammad Ali	2167

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *10 September 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,6 and 13-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) *8-12* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,6 and 13-15* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *2-5,7 and 16-19* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendments filed on September

10, 2004.

Claims 1-19 are pending in this Office Action.

Response to Arguments

2. After further search and a thorough examination of the present application,

claims 1, 6, and 13-15 remain rejected.

Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 1, 6, and 13-15 have been

considered, but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

First, Applicant's argue that Hinckley and Gatto does not teach "determining if

the output/input interface of the manufacturer submits a data uploading request, if no

request is submitted to go to step (3), or else receive the uploaded data and store said

data in a database".

In response to applicant's arguments the Examiner respectfully submits that

Hinckley teaches the particular limitation as the logistics user interface may be

configured to provide access to data, e.g., Electronic Commodity Control Numbers

(ECCNs) and Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS), used to support import/export

compliance necessary for organizations importing and exporting components. Access to

this data can greatly reduce the amount of manpower necessary to avoid time delays in

shipping and receiving components. The ECCN, HTS and United States Customs

Description for each manufacturer's MPN may be stored in the MPR data structure.

Over time, the MPR may be cross-populated for identical component functionality

through the use of the MCR across manufacturers' MPNs, see para. 0121, Hinckley.

Second, Applicant's argue that Hinckley and Gatto does not teach "processing

data operation".

In response to applicant's arguments the Examiner respectfully submits that

Hinckley teaches the particular limitation as exchange system traders may access the

exchange system to generate additional trades, if a CS has excess inventory of a given

component, the exchange trader is not limited to matching CBs with a current demand

of the component. Based on data about past component transactions, the exchange

system trader/broker can inquire with past CBs and CSs of that component as well as

past CBs and CSs of both ASCs and IECs to identify potential components for trade,

para. 0123, Hinckley.

Third, Applicant's argue that Hinckley and Gatto does not teach "information of

manufacturer associated data of the client order data, material requirement data, or

stock bond".

In response to applicant's arguments the Examiner respectfully submits that

Hinckley teaches the particular limitation as stated above and a procedure begins at

900 and control proceeds to 910. At 910, ASC data is accessed, e.g., by downloading

or inputting that data provided by trading partners, accessing this data previously stored

in a memory, etc. Control then proceeds to 920, at which an ILC value is assigned for

each unique CB code/IPN combination. At 920, the ILC value is the same as the MLC

value for all ASCs associated with the ILC value. Control then proceeds to 930, at which

MLC fields are then populated only with unique MPN+CM combinations. Control then proceeds to 940 at which duplicate MPNs are identified and capture the pre-existing UPN, see para. 0070, Hinckley.

Fourth, Applicant's argue that Hinckley and Gatto does not teach all the limitations as claimed.

In response to applicant's arguments the Examiner respectfully submits that Hinckley's and Gatto's combination drives the applicant's claimed invention. Hinckley does not explicitly indicate the claimed estimating exportation time. Gatto discloses claimed estimating exportation time at col. 25, lines 50-63. It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because estimating exportation time of Gatto's teachings would have allowed Hinckley's system to improves to view historical data analysts' prediction and actual reported data as suggested by Gatto at col. 1, lines 17-20. Estimating exportation time as taught by Gatto improves computer implemented systems and methods for use with a historical data relating to security analyst earnings estimate or other predictions (see col. 2, lines 58-60, Gatto).

Hence, Applicants' arguments do not distinguish over the claimed invention over the prior art of record.

In light of the foregoing arguments, the 103 rejections are hereby sustained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1, 6, and 13-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paul Hinckley ('Hinckley' hereinafter), US PG Pub 2002/0055886 in view of Joseph Gatto ('Gatto' hereinafter), US Patent 6,681,211

With respect to claim 1,

Hinckley discloses a method for estimating exportation time, for connecting an output/input interface of a manufacturer through a network to a system for estimating exportation time, wherein the system estimates product exportation time for client orders received by the output/input interface of the manufacturer according to practical

operating conditions in product manufacture; the method comprising the (see page 11,

paragraph 0121) steps of:

determining via the system if the output/input interface of the manufacturer

submits a data uploading request, wherein if no uploading request is submitted, step (3)

is followed; or else, the system receives manufacture associated data of client order

data, material requirement data and stock record data that are uploaded by the

manufacturer, and stores the uploaded data in a database of the system, and then step

(2) is followed; processing data operation for the manufacture associated data of the

client order data, the material requirement data and the stock record data, and storing

operation data results of manufacture schedule data, order reply data, abnormal

condition data and material insufficiency data in the database; then, the step (1) is

followed (see page 11, paragraph 0121);

processing data operation,...... (see page 11, paragraph 0123)

determining via the system if the manufacturer submits a data downloading

request, wherein if the downloading request is submitted, step (4) is followed (see page

6, paragraph 0070); or else, the step (1) is followed (see page 11, paragraph 0121); and

downloading operation data results from the database corresponding to the

submitted request from the manufacturer, and transmitting the downloaded operation

data results to the output/input interface of the manufacturer (see page 11, paragraph

0121 et seq).

Hinckley does not explicitly indicate the claimed estimating exportation time.

Gatto discloses claimed estimating exportation time at col. 25, lines 50-63.

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because estimating exportation time of Gatto's teachings would have allowed Hinckley's system to improves to view historical data analysts' prediction and actual reported data as suggested by Gatto at col. 1, lines 17-20. Estimating exportation time as taught by Gatto improves computer implemented systems and methods for use with a historical data relating to security analyst earnings estimate or other predictions (see col. 2, lines 58-60, Gatto).

As to claim 6,

Hinckley teaches wherein the output/input interface is a terminal device (Fig. 4 et seq).

With respect to claim 13,

Hinckley discloses a system for estimating exportation time comprising (see page 11, paragraph 0121):

a request input module for receiving the data uploading request or the data downloading request from the output/input interface of the manufacturer, and for generating a processing signal corresponding to the data uploading request or the data downloading request (see page 6, paragraph 0070);

a control module for receiving the processing signal from the request input module, and for outputting a controlling signal according to the received processing signal, wherein the control module includes a storage, interface, a schedule interface and a retrieval interface (see page 11, paragraph 0121);

a first database for storing the manufacture associated data of the client order-

data, the material requirement data and the stock record data uploaded by the

manufacturer (see page 11, paragraph 0121);

wherein if the control module receives the processing signal from the request

input

module corresponding to the data uploading request, it generates an uploading

controlling signal for prompting; the storage interface to store the uploaded manufacture

associated data in the first database, and generates an operation controlling signal for

prompting the schedule interface to retrieve the uploaded data from the first database

for

data operation and processing (see page 6, paragraph 0070);

a second database for storing operation data results of manufacture schedule

data,

order reply data, abnonnal condition data and material insufficiency data produced by

the

control module; wherein if the control module receives the processing signal from the

request input module corresponding to the data downloading request, it generates a

downloading controlling signal for prompting the retrieval interface to retrieve the

operation data results of the manufacture schedule data, the order reply data, the

abnormal condition data and the material insufficiency data from the second database

as desirably used as reference for product manufacture (see page 6, paragraph 070);

and

an output control module for transmitting the retrieved data of the manufacture

schedule data, the order reply data, the abnormal condition data and the material

insufficiency data to the output/input interface of the manufacturer, so as to allow the

manufacturer to be able to control product manufacture for exportation on time and

monitor stock quantity in real time (see page 11, paragraph 0121 and page 6,

paragraph 0069).

Hinckley does not explicitly indicate the claimed estimating exportation time.

Gatto discloses claimed estimating exportation time at col. 25, lines 50-63.

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the

time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because

estimating exportation time of Gatto's teachings would have allowed Hinckley's system

to improves to view historical data analysts' prediction and actual reported data as

suggested by Gatto at col. 1, lines 17-20. Estimating exportation time as taught by Gatto

improves computer implemented systems and methods for use with a historical data

relating to security analyst earnings estimate or other predictions (see col. 2, lines 58-

60, Gatto).

As to claim 14,

Hinckley teaches wherein the output/input interface is a terminal device (see

page 11, paragraph 0121, fig. 4).

As to claim 15,

Hinckley teaches wherein the system is established in a server (see page 11,

paragraph 0121, fig. 4).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-12 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest in combination of all elements more specifically, wherein setting the obtained available resources from the material requirement data and the stock record data via the system to be in a reserve status, so as to make the available resources used in product manufacture for other client orders with their exportation dates being approached, or to allow an purchasing department to add up new orders for product manufacture; and establishing manufacture schedule data via the system for production lines to execute product manufacture according to order requirements, and generating order reply data so as to estimate precise product exportation tune, wherein the manufacture schedule data and the order reply data are stored in the database; thereafter, the step (1) is followed;

setting the obtained available resources from the material requirement data and the stock record data via the system to be in a usage status, so as to make the available resources used in product manufacture for the client order data with the exportation date determined to be smaller than the sum of the order date and the number of interval days; and constructing manufacture schedule data via the system for production lines to execute product manufacture so as to allow products to be exported on time according to the client order data, and generating order reply data so as to estimate precise product exportation time, whereas the manufacture schedule data and the order reply data are stored in the database; thereafter, the step (1) is followed.

The dependent claims 9-12, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification and are also allowed.

Claims 2-5, 7, 16-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with other elements wherein, a request input module for receiving the data uploading request or the data downloading request from the output/input interface of, the manufacturer, and for generating a processing signal corresponding to the data uploading request or the data downloading request;

a control module for receiving the processing signal from the request input module, and for outputting a controlling signal according to the received processing signal, wherein the control module includes a storage interface, a schedule interface and a retrieval interface;

a first database for storing the manufacture associated data of the client order data, the material requirement data and the stock record data uploaded by the manufacturer; wherein if the control module receives the processing signal from the request input module corresponding to the data uploading request, it generates an uploading controlling signal for prompting; the storage interface to store the uploaded manufacture associated data in the first database, and generates an operation controlling signal for prompting the schedule interface to retrieve the uploaded data from the first database for data operation and processing;

a second database for storing operation data results of manufacture schedule

data, order reply data, abnormal condition data and material insufficiency data produced

by the control module; wherein if the control module receives the processing signal from

the request input module corresponding to the data downloading request, it generates a

downloading controlling signal for prompting the retrieval interface to retrieve the

operation data results of the manufacture schedule data, the order reply data, the

abnormal condition data and the material insufficiency data from the second database

as desirably used as reference for product manufacture; and

an output control module for transmitting the retrieved data of the manufacture

schedule data, the order reply data, the abnormal condition data and the material

insufficiency data to the output/input interface of the manufacturer, so as to allow the

manufacturer to be able to control product manufacture for exportation on time and

monitor stock quantity in real time as recited in claim 5.

Claim 7 is the further limit of claim 5 and would be allowable for the same

reasons as described above.

The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with other

elements wherein, retrieving the client order data from the database of the system for

obtaining an order date and an exportation date from the client order data, and

retrieving the material requirement data and the stock record data for obtaining currently

available resources;

determining via the system if a user sets a number of interval days between the

order date and the exportation date according to the client order data, wherein if the

number of interval days is not set by the user, then it is automatically set by the system;

determining via the system according to the client order data if the exportation

date is larger than a sum of the order date and the number of interval days, wherein if

the exportation date is larger, step (2-4) is followed; or else, step (2-5) is followed;

setting the obtained available resources from the material requirement data and

the stock record data via the system to be in a reserve status, so as to make the

available resources used ,in product manufacture for other client orders with their

exportation dates being approached, or to allow an purchasing department to add up

new orders for product manufacture; and establishing manufacture schedule data via

the system for production lines to execute product manufacture according to order

requirements, and generating order reply data so as to estimate precise product

exportation time, wherein the manufacture schedule data and the order reply data are

stored in the database; and

setting the obtained available resources from the material requirement data and

the stock record data via the system to be in a usage status, so as to make the

available resources used in produ4-t manufacture for the client order data with the

exportation date determined to be smaller than the sum of the order date and the

number of interval days; and constructing manufacture schedule data via the system for

production lines to execute product manufacture so as to allow products to be exported

on time according to the client order data, and generating order reply data so as to

estimate precise product exportation time, whereas the manufacture schedule data and the order reply data are stored in the database as recited in claim 2.

Claims 3-4 are further limits of claim 2 and would be allowable for same reasons as described above.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of Time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from
the examiner should be directed to Mohammad Ali whose telephone number is (571)
272-4105. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from
7:30am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107 or TC 2100 customer
service (703) 306-5631. The fax phone number for the organization where this
application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications.
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Mohammad Ali

Primary Patent Examiner

MA   AU : 2167

November 02, 2004